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24 August 1960

MALI FEDERATION

- DOCUMENT NO. 4
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- IV. Political History: Senegal has been under French influence since 17th century; Soudan, since latter part of 19th century. Until 1958 when French Community formed, both were colonies of France under the Federation of French West Africa, administered from Dakar. Capital of Soudan is Bamako. Capital of Senegal was Saint-Louis, but was moved to Dakar (which is also capital of Mali) within the past year. Both Senegal and Soudan received measure of internal self-government under the loi-cadre of April 1957. In January 1959 Senegal and Soudan, autonomous republics of the French Community, approved the draft constitution of the Mali Federation. In January 1960, negotiations were begun in Paris on the terms of independence, and in April the accords were initialed transferring powers from France to Mali. On 20 June 1960, Mali acceded to independence.
- V. Government Structure: Government modeled on that of 3rd and 4th French republics, but predominance of a single party has made legislative branch only a rubber stamp for the leaders of the executive. Federal Legislative Assembly has 40 members--equally representative of Senegal and Soudan. The President is chief of state, elected for a five-year term by an electoral college consisting of the members of the Federal Assembly and the Senegal and Soudan legislative assemblies. Office would have limited powers. Chief of the federal government is the prime minister--whose official title is President of the Council of Ministers--chosen by the President with approval of the assembly.

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